



H.R. 406 – Alice Paul Congressional Gold Medal Act

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 406 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Joe Baca (D-CA) on January 11, 2007. The bill referred to the Committee on Financial Services but was never considered.

H.R. 406 is expected to be considered on May 13, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.R. 406 posthumously awards the Congressional Gold Medal to Alice Paul.

BACKGROUND

Alice Paul was born on January 11, 1885, in Moorestown, New Jersey. Similar to Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Alice Paul fought tirelessly for women's rights, in particular for women's right to vote.

She founded the National Woman's Party in 1916 and played a role in passing the 19th Amendment, which stated that "the right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex." She used non-violent disobedience in order to accomplish her goals, such as a three-week hunger strike in October of 1917 while in jail. The 19th amendment was ratified on August 26, 1920. Tennessee was the 36th state to ratify the amendment.

After the 19th amendment was passed, Alice Paul lobbied Congress to pass the Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution that she had drafted in 1923. She was successful in including language in Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 that prohibited gender-based discrimination.

In her later years she took up residence in Washington, DC near the Capitol. Alice Paul passed away on July 9, 1977, at the age of 92.

The Congressional Gold Medal is the highest award Congress can bestow upon a group or individual.

COST

At the time of publication the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) had not yet scored this legislation.

STAFF CONTACT

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